

0 We claim:

5 1. A touch pad module to implement user input functions to an electronic device, said touch pad module comprising a sensor layer having a length and width for detecting position of a conductive object in contact with said touch pad module, an insulative layer positioned over and contiguous with said sensor layer and a conductive layer positioned over and contiguous with said insulative layer.

10 2. The touch pad module of claim 1 wherein said sensor layer comprises a capacitive touch pad comprising perpendicular rows of electrodes separated by a thin dielectric layer.

15 3. The touch pad module of claim 2 wherein said conductive object comprises either a finger of a user or a tip of a stylus applied to the surface of said conductive layer.

20 4. The touch pad module of claim 1 wherein said conductive layer is deformable to said conductive object so that contact of said conductive object to said conductive layer results in a visible trail being created on the surface of the conductive layer.

25 5. The touch pad module of claim 4 wherein said visible trail is erasable.

6. The touch pad module of claim 1 wherein said conductive layer is transparent.

30 7. The touch pad module of claim 6 wherein said module further comprises a layer of liquid crystal material which displays a visible change in response to contact of said conductive object.

8. The touch pad module of claim 3 wherein said touch pad module when used in conjunction with said electronic device can analyze capacitive

0 measurements emanated from said module to enable said device to distinguish
finger and stylus contact with said conductive layer.

5 9. The touch pad module of claim 1 wherein said conductive layer is of a
resistance as to expand a small contact area of a tip of a conductive stylus into
an image of suitable size for position measurement.

10 10. The touch pad module of claim 1 wherein said conductive layer
comprises a sheet of plastic embedded with conductive carbon.

15 11. The touch pad module of claim 1 wherein the resistance of said
conductive layer is such as to enable said module to generate an approximately
equal capacitance when a finger or a conductive stylus tip is brought into
contact with said conductive layer.

12. The touch pad module of claim 1 wherein a bezel is located over said
conductive layer preventing said conductive object from contacting that portion
of said touch pad module masked by said bezel.